## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

MELLONI et al Atty. Ref.: 2818-176; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. To be Assigned Group:

Filed: November 20, 2003 Examiner:

For: PROCESS FOR PREPARING R-(-)-CARNITINE FROM S-(-)-

CHLOROSUCCINIC ACID OR FROM A DERIVATIVE THEREOF

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

November 20, 2003

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: